

Courtney M. Wallner  
709 North Tioga Street  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
607-273-4605  
cmw28@cornell.edu

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May 16, 2000

FDA Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
5630 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20852  
fax: 301-827-6870  
email: fdadockets@oc.fda.gov

**Docket #99P-4613—BAN BOVINE GROWTH HORMONE ON DAIRY COWS**

I implore you to ban any usage of Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH) on dairy cows. America is the only country, which allows dairy cows to be injected with Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH), to purportedly boost milk production. Agricultural economists at Cornell University, who conducted a recent study of New York dairy farms, discovered that although BGH increased milk output, the hormone was not profitable because it raised overall production costs. This is in direct contradiction of Monsanto's claim that BGH is key to lucrative dairies.

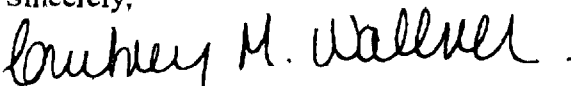
The biggest problems—and why Docket #99P-4613 is crucial to America's physical and economic health—are the dangerous risks linked with BGH (to both cows *and* humans). In 1999, the Canadian government banned Monsanto's synthetic bovine growth hormone, due to its "unacceptable threat to the safety of cows." Canada's animal health panel reported that rBGH-treated cows had a 25% increase in mastitis, an excruciating bacterial infection of the udder, and a 50% increase in lameness. In America, up to half of dairy cows suffer from BGH-induced mastitis. (Feedstuffs/97)

BGH-diseased cows are treated with massive doses of antibiotics that are passed on to humans who drink their milk. BGH also causes cows to make more IGF-1 (insulin-like growth factor) which promotes cancer cell growth and elevates risks for prostate cancer in men and breast cancer in women. (World Cancer Research Fund, the American Institute for Cancer Research.)

Canada and most European countries ban BGH-treated dairy products because of these known factors. But what about the unknown factors? There are no long-term studies to predict the effects of injecting dairy cows with synthetic hormones. No one can gauge how this chemical will ultimately effect human health.

Bovine Growth Hormone is unhealthy for cows and humans. Though it may fatten the bank accounts of large-scale dairy operations, I know the FDA is more concerned with the welfare of U.S. citizens. I urge the FDA to act on Docket #99P-4613 and ban BGH on American dairies.

Sincerely,

  
Courtney M. Wallner

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